Telephone services in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

981. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom facilities have been deteriorated in West Gadavari District in Andhra Pradesh so far during current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact poor maintenance has led to bad telephone service in this area;

(c) whether Government propose to imporve the maintenance of telecom facilities in West Godavari district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Telephone services in the West Godavari District are satisfactory and these are being maintained properly.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is a continuous process.

(d) Efforts are being made to improve the services further by introduction of modern technology exchange, replacement of old, worn-out and life expired equipments upgradation of external plants, computerisation of various services, provision of reliable trunk media through successive Annual Plans and Five Years Plans.

Measures to meet the demand of Processed Food

982. SHRI GOPALSINH. G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) Government's present policy regarding Food Processing;

(b) whether demand for processed food items is increasing;

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to meet the demand; and

(d) the details of measures taken to make processed food items available to the urban working class at affordable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) Food Processing Industries are being developed within the ambit of Industrial Policy Resolution of 1991. Food Processing Industries are mainly in the private and cooperative sectors and the Government policy is to encourage the development of this sector in the private, cooperative and joint/ assisted sectors.

Due to various socio-economic factors, the demand for processed foods in the country is rising. The Government has removed restrictions of capacity creation etc. though licensing in all food products excepting for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and items reserved for small scale sector. Besides, the Government had provided fiscal concessions to a large number of processed food items, machineries and packaging materials. The procedures for